

# News

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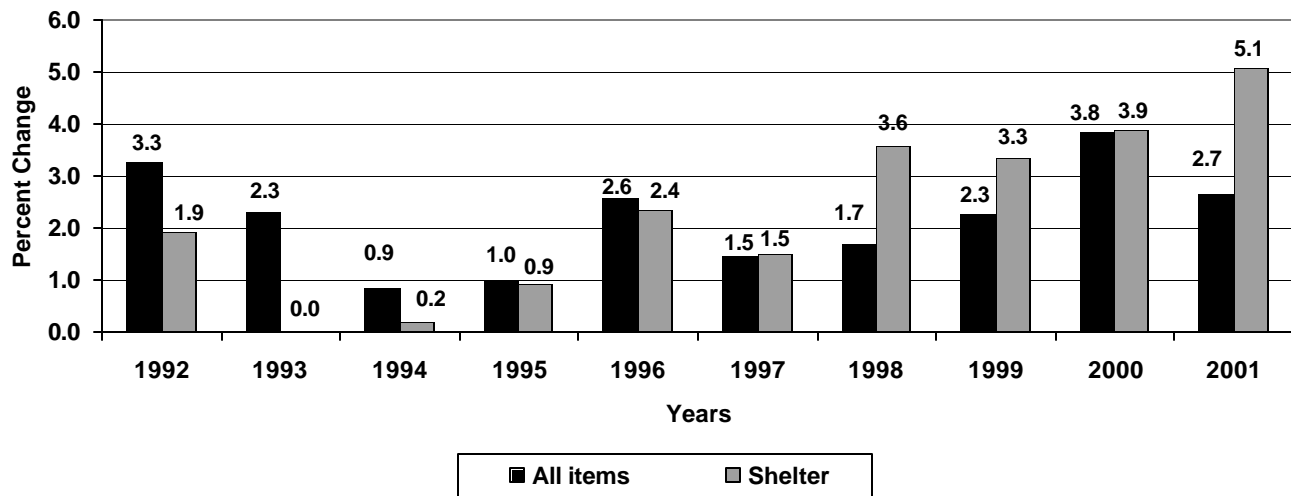
**FOR RELEASE:**

**Friday, December 14, 2001**

## LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES DECLINE 0.1 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area edged down 0.1 percent in November. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said lower prices for transportation and apparel were primarily responsible for the overall decline. Year to date, the all items index increased 2.7 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for the first 11 months of 2000. Compared to a year ago, overall prices advanced 2.7 percent, while the all items less food and energy index advanced 3.0 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

### The Greater Los Angeles Area Annual Percent Change November 1992 to November 2001



Gasoline prices fell 11.5 percent in November, following an 8.6 percent drop the previous month. Los Angeles area drivers paid 23.0 percent less for gasoline than they did a year ago. The overall transportation index, which is strongly influenced by gasoline prices, declined 1.6 percent this month and measured 4.1 percent lower than a year ago.

Apparel prices dropped 4.3 percent in November, the largest over-the-month decrease of the major expenditure categories this month. During the past 12 months, apparel prices were down 8.1 percent.

The overall food and beverages index declined 0.3 percent in November. Over the month, grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, were down 0.5 percent. For the same period, prices paid for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent and alcoholic beverages prices declined 0.7 percent. Compared to a year ago, the indexes for food at home and food away from home have advanced 5.4 and 3.8 percent, respectively, while alcoholic beverages have declined 0.8 percent. Overall prices for food and beverages were up 4.5 percent for the year ending November.

The index for education and communication decreased 0.2 percent this month, but the index was 3.3 percent higher than last year's level.

Medical care prices inched down 0.1 percent over the past month, but since November 2000, the index advanced 6.9 percent.

The index for other goods and services rose 0.5 percent in November. Higher cigarette prices contributed to the index's increase this month. Compared to a year ago, the index advanced 1.2 percent.

The housing index advanced 0.4 percent this month and was 5.3 percent above last year's level. The shelter category increased 0.3 percent for the month and 5.1 percent for the year ending November. The shelter sub-categories rent of primary residence and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 0.4 and 0.3 percent, respectively. These two indexes have, in turn, increased 6.2 and 5.5 percent over the year. Within fuels and utilities, the November prices for electricity did not change and utility natural gas service prices jumped 8.6 percent. Compared to last year's level, the electricity index measured 46.7 percent higher, while utility natural gas moved down 30.3 percent. The index for household furnishings increased 0.7 percent in November and showed a 0.5 percent increase from a year ago.

In November, the Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers, (CPI-U), in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, measured 178.1 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$178.10 in November 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items .....	178.8	178.3	178.1	2.7	-0.4	-0.1
All items (1967=100) .....	528.1	526.6	526.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	182.2	183.2	182.7	4.5	0.3	-0.3
Food .....	180.3	181.4	180.9	4.8	0.3	-0.3
Food at home .....	189.7	191.5	190.6	5.4	0.5	-0.5
Food away from home .....	166.8	166.9	167.0	3.8	0.1	0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	199.2	198.4	197.1	-0.8	-1.1	-0.7
Housing .....	182.0	181.6	182.4	5.3	0.2	0.4
Shelter .....	195.5	195.5	196.1	5.1	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence (1).....	189.5	190.2	191.0	6.2	0.8	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....	203.3	204.2	204.9	5.5	0.8	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....	181.4	177.9	180.3	12.5	-0.6	1.3
Fuels .....	181.7	177.4	180.6	15.8	-0.6	1.8
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	182.2	177.9	181.3	16.3	-0.5	1.9
Electricity (1).....	225.7	226.4	226.4	46.7	0.3	0.0
Utility natural gas service (1).....	125.7	112.2	121.9	-30.3	-3.0	8.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	129.4	128.8	129.7	0.5	0.2	0.7
Apparel .....	111.8	113.5	108.6	-8.1	-2.9	-4.3
Transportation .....	154.7	152.1	149.7	-4.1	-3.2	-1.6
Private transportation .....	148.5	146.4	143.7	-4.5	-3.2	-1.8
Motor fuel .....	124.8	114.1	101.0	-22.9	-19.1	-11.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	122.0	111.5	98.7	-23.0	-19.1	-11.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	120.8	110.3	97.3	-23.3	-19.5	-11.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	118.6	108.2	95.7	-23.3	-19.3	-11.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	120.2	110.2	97.9	-22.7	-18.6	-11.2
Medical care .....	270.6	271.7	271.5	6.9	0.3	-0.1
Recreation (5).....	105.9	105.4	108.9	4.1	2.8	3.3
Education and communication (5).....	102.1	102.6	102.4	3.3	0.3	-0.2
Other goods and services .....	300.1	294.9	296.5	1.2	-1.2	0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Commodity and service group						
All items .....	178.8	178.3	178.1	2.7	-0.4	-0.1
Commodities .....	151.6	150.7	148.9	-1.0	-1.8	-1.2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	132.6	130.7	128.2	-4.8	-3.3	-1.9
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	141.8	138.5	133.8	-7.1	-5.6	-3.4
Durables .....	120.4	120.2	120.5	-1.4	0.1	0.2
Services .....	202.5	202.3	203.6	5.1	0.5	0.6
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care .....	174.1	173.6	173.4	2.5	-0.4	-0.1
All items less shelter .....	172.3	171.6	171.0	1.3	-0.8	-0.3
Commodities less food .....	136.0	134.1	131.6	-4.6	-3.2	-1.9
Nondurables .....	163.0	161.8	159.1	-0.9	-2.4	-1.7
Nondurables less food .....	146.8	143.6	138.9	-6.7	-5.4	-3.3
Services less rent of shelter (2) .....	219.3	218.9	221.1	5.0	0.8	1.0
Services less medical care services .....	196.8	196.6	197.9	4.9	0.6	0.7
Energy .....	144.3	136.4	130.0	-5.7	-9.9	-4.7
All items less energy .....	182.9	183.0	183.4	3.3	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	183.8	183.7	184.3	3.0	0.3	0.3

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.